<u>REMARKS</u>

Applicants have carefully read and considered the Official Action dated December 15, 2004

The specification has been amended with formal corrections not affecting the subject matter in paragraphs [0030], [0099], [0167], [0191], [0217] and [0243].

The undersigned declares that the above-identified application is commonly owned by Membrane Technology and Research, Inc., of Menlo Park, California.

In view of the Ex parte Quayle action dated December 15, 2004 wherein the Examiner allowed claims I-45 pending formal corrections, applicants submit that claims in the above-identified application are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to the Group 1724 fax number (703) 872-9306 on January 6, 2005.